



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**

School of Education

Department of Early Childhood Education

MA Program “Special Education”

Name: **Grigorios Kalpakian**

Supervisor: **Evdoxia Nteropoulou – Nterou**

Title of dissertation: **Views and experiences of d/Deaf individuals regarding the motivations and reasons for choosing a profession: exploring the factors influencing the choice of profession**

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to investigate the reasons and motivations of Deaf people regarding the choice of profession and in particular, to investigate the factors that influence the choice of profession and the exercise of professional work. This study is qualitative research. The aim of qualitative research is not limited to the simple description of attitudes and behaviors, but to the holistic understanding of a social phenomenon. Regarding the selection of the sample, the snowball method was adopted. A total of eight adults with deafness participated in the research. Semi-structured interviews were used as a data collection tool. The interview guide was written, based on the research questions of the study and was divided into three thematic axes. Initially, the demographic data of each participant was collected and then in the first thematic axis they were asked about the reasons and motivations for choosing their profession. The second thematic axis focused mainly on the factors that seem to have influenced their choice. The third and final thematic axis referred to the profession itself, assessing their experience in it so far, their degree of satisfaction and any future changes they would make in order to improve their working conditions. The data analysis method was based on the thematic analysis of the research findings. Regarding the main findings of the study, it was observed that the participants seem to be greatly influenced by their social and family environment regarding their professional choice. In addition, it was revealed that the school as

a social and educational institution is a key factor that influences the professional orientation of young people and shapes the professional preferences of d/Deaf individuals.

Keywords: d/Deaf people, motivations for choosing a profession, factors influencing career choice, professional experiences.